JC05 Rec'd PCT/PTO 27 MAR 2002

°FORM PTO-1390 OFFICE (REV 11-2000)	U S DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK	ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER
TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 371		273402003400
		U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 CFR 1.5) To be Assigned 10/089661

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.	INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE	PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED
PCT/AU00/01165	September 25, 2000	September 29, 1999

TITLE OF INVENTION

MULTIPLE VENUE JACKPOT SYSTEM

APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US

Andre TURNBULL

Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:

1. ☒ This is a **FIRST** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
2. ☐ This is a **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
3. ☐ This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)). The submission must include items (5), (6), (9) and (21) indicated below.
4. ☐ The US has been elected by the expiration of 19 months from the priority date (PCT Article 31).
5. ☒ A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))
   a. ☐ is attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).
   b. ☒ has been communicated by the International Bureau.
   c. ☐ is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).
6. ☐ An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
   a. ☐ is attached hereto.
   b. ☐ has been previously submitted under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
7. ☒ Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
   a. ☐ are attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).
   b. ☐ have been communicated by the International Bureau.
   c. ☐ have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
   d. ☒ have not been made and will not be made.
8. ☐ An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
9. ☒ An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)). - 2 pages
10. ☐ An English language translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).

Items 11. to 16. below concern document(s) or information included:

11. ☒ An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. - 3 pages, Form PTO-1449, 1 page + duplicate and seven (7) references
12. ☒ An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included. - 2 pages
13. ☒ A FIRST preliminary amendment. - 11 pages
14. ☐ A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment.
15. ☐ A substitute specification.
16. ☐ A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.
17. ☐ A computer-readable form of the sequence listing in accordance with PCT Rule 13ter.2 and 35 U.S.C. 1.821 - 1.825.
18. ☐ A second copy of the published international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
19. ☐ A second copy of the English language translation of the international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
20. ☒ Other items or information: Application Data Sheet - 2 pages, IPER 7 pages; Publication - 15 pages, Written Opinion - 3 pages, Reply to Written Opinion - 10 pages, return receipt postcard.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY "EXPRESS MAIL"

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Tamara Alcaraz

pa-679326

29 MAR 2002

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (if known, see 37 CFR 1.5)	INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.	ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER: 273402003400
10/089661 To Be Assigned		

21. ☒ The following fees are submitted:

BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492(a)(1)-(5)):

Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO.....$1,040.00

International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO.....$890.00

International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO.....$740.00

International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO but all claims did not satisfy provision of PCT Article 33(1)-(4).....$710.00

International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4).....$100.00

	CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY	
ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =	$1040.00	
Surcharge of **$130.00** for furnishing the oath or declaration later than ☐ 20 ☒ 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).	$0	

CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE		
Total claims	39 - 20 =	19	x $18.00	$342.00	
Independent claims	3 - 3 =	0	x $84.00	$0	
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable)			+ $280.00	$0	
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =				$1382.00	
Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27. The fees indicated above are reduced by ½.				$	
SUBTOTAL =				$1382.00	
Processing fee of **$130.00** for furnishing the English translation later than ☐ 20 ☒ 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)). +				$	
TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =				$1382.00	
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). **$40.00 per property** +				$40.00	
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =				$	
				Amount to be refunded:	**$***
				charged:	**$1,422.00**

a. ☐ A check in the amount of $* to cover the above fees is enclosed.

b. ☒ Please charge my **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** in the amount of $* to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

c. ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952**. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

d. ☐ Fees are to be charged to a credit card. **WARNING:** Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.

NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.

SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

E. Thomas Wheelock
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SIGNATURE

E. Thomas Wheelock
Registration No. 28,825

PATENT
Docket No. 273402003400

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY "EXPRESS MAIL"

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Tamara Alcaraz

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of:

Andre TURNBULL

Serial No.: To Be Assigned

Filing Date: Herewith

For: MULTIPLE VENUE JACKPOT SYSTEM

Examiner: To Be Assigned

Group Art Unit: To Be Assigned

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Box PCT
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, Applicants respectfully request entry of the following amendments and addition of new claims 29-39.

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1-3, 6, 7 ,9, 10, 14, 15, 20, 22, 23 and 27 as follows:

1. (Amended) A jackpot system for providing jackpots on electronic gaming machines (EGMs) operating in a plurality of EGM venues, the system comprising a master controller located remotely from at least one of the EGM venues and a networked EGM installation located at each EGM venue, each networked EGM installation comprising one or more EGMs connected via communications network to a network controller, wherein the master controller is not directly connected to the respective communications network of at least one of the EGM networks, each networked EGM installation further comprising jackpot awarding means arranged to award jackpot prizes to individual EGMs in the respective EGM installation based on a predetermined trigger condition being established, and reporting means arranged to periodically initiate a gaming activity report and communicate the gaming activity report to the master controller, the gaming activity report comprising a batch of gaming data representing gaming activity and jackpot events occurring on the respective networked EGM installation during a period of operation preceding the initiation of the report, the EGM installation in each EGM venue maintaining a prize pool from which jackpot prizes are awarded, and the prize pool being periodically updated in response to pool information communicated from the master controller to the respective EGM installation as a batch data transfer in response to gaming activity reports received by the master controller from each of the EGM venues.

2. (Amended) A jackpot system providing jackpots on electronic gaming machines (EGMs) operating in an EGM venue, the system comprising a master controlled located remotely from the EGM venue and a networked EGM installation located at the EGM venue, the

networked EGM installation comprising one or more EGMs connected via communications network to a network controller, wherein the master controller is not directly connected to the communications network, the networked EGM installation comprising jackpot awarding means arranged to award jackpot prizes to individual EGMs based on a predetermined trigger condition being established, and communications means arranged to periodically initiate a gaming activity report and communicate the gaming activity report to a master controller, the gaming activity report comprising a batch of gaming data representing gaming activity and jackpot events occurring on the respective networked EGM installation during a period of operation preceding the initiation of the report, the EGM installation maintaining a prize pool from which jackpot prizes are awarded, and the prize pool being periodically updated in response to pool information provided from the master controller to the EGM installation via the communications mean as a batch data transfer in response to gaming activity reports received by the master controller from each of the EGM venues.

3. (Amended) The system of claim 2, wherein the EGM installation in each EGM venue includes a local jackpot controller and a front-end processor, such that the jackpot controller monitors EGM operation, determines the occurrence of jackpot trigger condition, maintains the prize pool information, and awards prizes from the prize pool when trigger condition occurs.

6. (Amended) The system of claim 3, wherein communication between the front-end processor and the master controller is encrypted.

7. (Amended) The system of claim 3, wherein communication between the front-end processor and the master controller is via e-mail.

9. (Amended) The system of claim 3, wherein communication between the front-end processor and the master controller is via reports printed on paper.

10. (Amended) The system of claim 3, wherein communication between the front-end processor and the master controller is via data recorded on recordable media.

14. (Amended) The system claimed in claim 3, wherein the front-end processor communicates with a security sytem, to indicate the identity of each EGM on which a jackpot has been won, the security system including a security video camera, and the security system being responsive to the indication of the identity of each winning EGM to direct the field of view of security video cameras to the area of the respective winning EGM.

15. (Amended) The system as claimed in claim 3, wherein the master controller includes an accounting system for gathering accounting information from each of the venues participating in the multiple venue jackpot system, and means for calculating jackpot pool for each venue based on gaming machine activity at the respective venues.

20. (Amended) The master controller of claim 18, wherein communication between the front-end processor and the master controller is via e-mail.

22. (Amended) The master controller of claim 18, wherein communication between the front-end processor and the master controller is via data reports printed on paper.

23. (Amended) The master controller of claim 18, wherein communication between the front-end processor and the master controller is via data recorded on a recorded on a recordable media.

27. (Amended) The system as claimed in claim 18 wherein, the master controller includes an accounting system for gathering accounting information from each of the venues participating in the multiple venue jackpot system, and means for a calculating jackpot pool for each venue based on gaming machine activity at the respective venues.

Please add the following claims:

29. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein the EGM installation in each EGM venue includes a local jackpot controller and a front-end processor, such that the jackpot controller monitors EGM operation, determines the occurrence of jackpot trigger condition, maintains the prize pool information, and awards prizes from the prize pool when trigger condition occurs.

30. (New) The system of claim 29, wherein communication between the front-end processor and the master controller is encrypted.

31. (New) The system of claim 29, wherein communication between the front-end processor and the master controller is via e-mail.

32. (New) The system of claim 29, wherein communication between the front-end processor and the master controller is via reports printed on paper.

33. (New) The system of claim 29, wherein communication between the front-end processor and the master controller is via data recorded on a recordable media.

34. (New) The system as claimed in claim 29, wherein the front-end processor communicates with a security system, to indicate the identity of each EGM on which a jackpot has been won, the security system including a security video camera, and the security system being responsive to the indication of the identity of each winning EGM to direct the field of view of security video cameras to the area of the respective winning EGM.

35. (New) The system as claimed in claim 29, wherein the master controller includes an accounting system for gathering accounting information from each of the venues participating in the multiple venue jackpot system, and means for a calculating jackpot pool for each venue based on gaming machine activity at the respective venues.

36. (New) The master controller of claim 19, wherein communication between the front-end processor and the master controller is via e-mail.

37. (New) The master controller of claim 19, wherein communication between the front-end processor and the master controller is via reports printed on paper.

38. (New) The master controller of claim 19, wherein communication between the front-end processor and the master controller is via data recorded on a recordable media.

39. (New) The system as claimed in claim 19, wherein the master controller includes an accounting system for gathering accounting information from each of the venues participating in the multiple venue jackpot system, and means for a calculating jackpot pool for each venue based on gaming machine activity at the respective venues.

REMARKS

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**".

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. 273402003400. However, the Assistant Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: March 19, 2002 By: _____

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

By virtue of the amendment claims 1-3, 6, 7, 9, 10, 14, 15, 20, 22, 23 and 27 have been amended.

1. (Amended) A jackpot system for providing jackpots on electronic gaming machines (EGMs) operating in a plurality of EGM venues, the system comprising a master controller located remotely from at least one of the EGM venues and a networked EGM installation located at each EGM venue, each networked EGM installation comprising one or more EGMs connected via communications network to a network controller, wherein the master controller is not directly connected to the respective communications network of at least one of the EGM networks, each networked EGM installation further comprising jackpot awarding means arranged to award jackpot prizes to individual EGMs in the respective EGM installation based on a predetermined trigger condition being established, and reporting means arranged to periodically initiate a gaming activity report and communicate the gaming activity report to the master controller, the gaming activity report comprising a batch of gaming data representing gaming activity and jackpot events occurring on the respective networked EGM installation during a period of operation preceding the initiation of the report, the EGM installation in each EGM venue maintaining a prize pool from which jackpot prizes are awarded, and the prize pool being periodically updated in response to pool information communicated from the master controller to the respective EGM installation as a batch data transfer in response to gaming activity reports received by the master controller from each of the EGM venues.

2. (Amended) A jackpot system providing jackpots on electronic gaming machines (EGMs) operating in an EGM venue, the system comprising a master controlled located remotely from the EGM venue and a networked EGM installation located at the EGM venue, the

networked EGM installation comprising one or more EGMs connected via communications network to a network controller, wherein the master controller is not directly connected to the communications network, the networked EGM installation comprising jackpot awarding means arranged to award jackpot prizes to individual EGMs based on a predetermined trigger condition being established, and communications means arranged to periodically initiate a gaming activity report and communicate the gaming activity report to a master controller, the gaming activity report comprising a batch of gaming data representing gaming activity and jackpot events occurring on the respective networked EGM installation during a period of operation preceding the initiation of the report,[,] the EGM installation maintaining a prize pool from which jackpot prizes are awarded, and the prize pool being periodically updated in response to pool information provided from the master controller to the EGM installation via the communications mean as a batch data transfer in response to gaming activity reports received by the master controller from each of the EGM venues.

3. (Amended) The system of claim [1 or]2, wherein the EGM installation in each EGM venue includes a local jackpot controller and a front-end processor, such that the jackpot controller monitors EGM operation, determines the occurrence of jackpot trigger condition, maintains the prize pool information, and awards prizes from the prize pool when trigger condition occurs.

6. (Amended) The system of claim 3,[4 or 5] wherein communication between the front-end processor and the master controller is encrypted.

7. (Amended) The system of claim 3,[4, 5, or 6] wherein communication between the front-end processor and the master controller is via e-mail.

9. (Amended) The system of claim 3,[4, 5, or 6] wherein communication between the front-end processor and the master controller is via reports printed on paper.

10. (Amended) The system of claim 3,[4, 5, or 6] wherein communication between the front-end processor and the master controller is via data recorded on recordable media.

14. (Amended) The system claimed in[any one of] claim[s] 3[to 13], wherein the front-end processor communicates with a security sytem, to indicate the identity of each EGM on which a jackpot has been won, the security system including a security video camera, and the security system being responsive to the indication of the identity of each winning EGM to direct the field of view of security video cameras to the area of the respective winning EGM.

15. (Amended) The system as claimed in[any one of] claim[s] 3[to 14], wherein the master controller includes an accounting system for gathering accounting information from each of the venues participating in the multiple venue jackpot system, and means for calculating jackpot pool for each venue based on gaming machine activity at the respective venues.

20. (Amended) The master controller of claim 18[or 19], wherein communication between the front-end processor and the master controller is via e-mail.

22. (Amended) The master controller of claim 18[or 19], wherein communication between the front-end processor and the master controller is via data reports printed on paper.

23. (Amended) The master controller of claim 18[or 19], wherein communication between the front-end processor and the master controller is via data recorded on a recorded on a recordable media.

27. (Amended) The system as claimed in[any one of] claim[s] 18[to 26] wherein, the master controller includes an accounting system for gathering accounting information from each

of the venues participating in the multiple venue jackpot system, and means for a calculating jackpot pool for each venue based on gaming machine activity at the respective venues.

New claims 29-39 have been added.

Multiple venue jackpot system

Introduction

The present invention relates generally to the provision of jackpots on networked gaming machines and in particular the invention provides a method of awarding a jackpot from a prize pool operated across a plurality of venues.

Background of the Invention

It has become desirable in the past to link gaming machines together into a network of machines for a variety of reasons including, gathering of accounting information and payment of system wide jackpots. In particular, the operation of system wide jackpots has become popular because it increases the size of prizes that can be offered by a gaming machine operator, by allowing the accumulation of a large jackpot pool from which prizes are paid on the basis of a random trigger or some other selection mechanism. Such systems are sometimes operated over a number of venues, but in order to inter connect the venues securely, expensive infrastructure is required.

Unfortunately, such jackpot systems, known as linked systems, have previously only been available to large establishments operating enough machines to enable the collection of a large prize pool in a reasonable period of time, or alternatively groups of establishments having sufficient turnover to be able to justify the expense of the infrastructure required to link multiple sites.

Summary of the Invention

According to a first aspect the present invention provides a jackpot system for providing jackpots on electronic gaming machines operating in a plurality of EGM venues, each EGM venue having a networked electronic gaming machine (EGM) installation including one or more electronic gaming machines (EGMs) connected via communications network to a network controller, jackpot awarding means arranged to award jackpot prizes to individual EGMs based on a predetermined trigger condition being established, and reporting means arranged to report gaming activity and jackpot events to a master controller located remotely from the respective EGM venue, the EGM installation in each EGM venue maintaining a prize pool from which jackpot prizes are awarded, the prize pool being periodically

updated in response to pool information communicated from the master controller to the respective EGM installation.

According to a second aspect the present invention provides a jackpot system for providing jackpots on electronic gaming machines operating in an EGM venue, the EGM venue having a networked electronic gaming machine (EGM) installation including one or more electronic gaming machines (EGMs) connected via a communications network to a network controller, jackpot awarding means arranged to award jackpot prizes to individual EGMs based on a predetermined trigger condition being established, and communications means arranged to report gaming activity and jackpot events to a master controller located remotely from the respective EGM venue, the EGM installation maintaining a prize pool from which jackpot prizes are awarded, the prize pool being periodically updated in response to pool information provide from the master controller to the EGM installation via the communications means.

According to a third aspect the present invention provides a master controller for a jackpot system for providing jackpots on electronic gaming machines operating in a plurality of EGM venues, each EGM venue having a networked electronic gaming machine (EGM) installation including one or more electronic gaming machines (EGMs) connected via communications network to a network controller, jackpot awarding means arranged to award jackpot prizes to individual EGMs based on a predetermined trigger condition being established, and reporting means arranged to report gaming activity and jackpot events to the master controller, the master controller being located remotely from at least one of the EGM venues, the EGM installation in each EGM venue maintaining a prize pool from which jackpot prizes are awarded, master controller collecting game statistics from each venue and periodically communicating information to update the prize pool of each EGM installation.

In one embodiment of the invention, the EGM installation in each EGM venue includes a local jackpot controller and a front-end processor. such that the jackpot controller monitors electronic gaming machine operation, determines the occurrence of jackpot trigger condition, maintains the prize pool information, and awards prizes from the prize pool when trigger condition occurs.

Preferably, the front-end processor monitors the operation of the local jackpot controller, and the electronic gaming machines in the network and gathers statistics for forwarding to the master controller. The front-end processor preferably communicates with the master controller via e-mail or a similar communications carrier. However, as the system does not rely on a real-time response, communication can be via any method including paper reports, tape, floppy disk or other magnetic media, or a variety of other secure communication techniques. For added security, communication between EGM venues and the master controller may also be encrypted.

The front-end processor also preferably communicates with a security system to indicate EGMs on which jackpot has been won, in order that the security system may direct the field of view of security video cameras to the area of the winning machine.

The master controller includes an accounting system for gathering accounting information from each of the venues participating in the multiple venue jackpot system, and means for calculating jackpot pool for each venue based on gaming machine activity at the respective venues as reported by the respective front-end processors. The master controller also includes communication means for receiving communications from the front-end processors at each EGM venue and returning prize pool information to each venue.

Brief description of the Drawing

An embodiment of the invention will now be described, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a block diagram illustrating a Multiple venue jackpot system according to the present invention.

Detailed Description of a Preferred Embodiment

Referring to Figure 1, an embodiment of the invention is illustrated, in which a Dacom™ computer system is arranged as a master controller of a multi-venue jackpot system. The master controller is arranged to provide information to help participating venues monitor and optimise slot machine performance and generate statutory reports required by licensing bodies.

The master controller is arranged to collect and manage slot machine operations and management information for a casino or other gaming venue. Day to day operating details can be collected, recorded, updated and summarised automatically by the master controller.

Traditionally controllers of this type have been connected to electronic gaming machines through a physical network of wires. The controller would communicate with a gaming machine through a simple router (FEP) with serial lines. However, using current technology this model can be extended to a more complex multi venue network where the multiple venues and the master controller communicate by indirect means such as email (via an ISP) or even by media transfer (CD rom, etc). Of course, communication can also be via traditional Wide Area Networking techniques.

In the embodiment illustrated in Figure 1, the master controller 10 is arranged to control a bank of slot machines (EGMs) 11 grouped to a local jackpot controller 12. This control is applied through the use of a simple ISP 13 e-mail facility.

The Front-End Processor (NT-FEP) is an application running on a PC 14, the application having the following features:

It maintains a live connection to the gaming floor network of up to several hundreds of slave nodes. Slave node consists of an EGM 11 & Machine Communication Interface (MCI) pair and from a network point of view this pair of devices is treated as a single entity.

Connection of one or more clients over a LAN is supported. Clients may issue request(s) and wait for responses. Significant events are also sent to all clients connected at the time.

It sends significant security events to the on-site security system controller 15 which activates and directs security cameras 17 to the area of the significant security event.

The Progressive Jackpot Front End Processor (PJFEP) is an application also running on the PC 14 with the following features:

It maintains a connection to the Local Jackpot Controller 12.

Connection of one or more clients over LAN is supported. Clients may issue request(s) and wait for responses.

There are several clients running on the same computer system 14 where NT-FEP and PJFEP are running. The most important client is Progressive Jackpot Client (PJClient) with the following features:

It maintains a connection to the NTFEP and PJFEP applications.

All significant event messages that are generated by the PJClient are stored in digital media.

It performs snapshot of the NTFEP and PJFEP when significant events (eg Jackpot Hit) and data (eg EGM Turnover, Jackpot Level Value) are retrieved. Appropriate log files are created to store these events.
Snapshot time is user configurable.
Configuration of the PJClient (eg TCP/IP address, snapshot time) can be saved.

The NTFEP and PJFEP servers use a transport layer protocol to connect to PJClient. The NTFEP acts as a server and PJClient establishes its connection. On every snapshot, the PJClient retrieves the current turnover value of all online EGMs 11. These will be recorded onto the log file. If required, the significant security events could be included in these log files as well.

On every snapshot, the PJClient also checks if the Jackpot Controller 12 is still online. If it is, PJClient proceeds to get a snapshot of the current jackpot level value as well as the jackpot hit events that have occurred since the last snapshot. These will be recorded onto the log file as well.

There is another client which at the snapshot time attaches different log files produced by the PJClient for that snapshot time to an email and sends it to the ISP mail server 13.

On the other side, the master controller 10 can use an e-mail client to retrieve the e-mails sent from the site and incorporate the data into appropriate fields of the database for later reports. These information will be recorded in the internal audit trail 16 of the master controller system 10.

It is possible for the master controller system 10 to send an e-mail to every site with the group and jackpot configurations for the jackpot controller of that site.

Glossary

EGM	Electronic Gaming Machine
ISP	Internet Service Provider
MCI	Machine Communication Interface
NT-FEP	Front End Processor
PJFEP	Progressive Jackpot Front End Processor

It will be appreciated by persons skilled in the art that numerous variations and/or modifications may be made to the invention as shown in the specific embodiments without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention as broadly described. The present embodiments are, therefore, to be considered in all respects as illustrative and not restrictive.

CLAIMS:

1. A jackpot system for providing jackpots on electronic gaming machines (EGMs) operating in a plurality of EGM venues, the system comprising a master controller located remotely from at least one of the EGM venues and a networked EGM installation located at each EGM venue, each networked EGM installation comprising one or more EGMs connected via communications network to a network controller, wherein the master controller is not directly connected to the respective communications network of at least on of the EGM networks, each networked EGM installation further comprising jackpot awarding means arranged to award jackpot prizes to individual EGMs in the respective EGM installation based on a predetermined trigger condition being established, and reporting means arranged to periodically initiate a gaming activity report and communicate the gaming activity report to the master controller, the gaming activity report comprising a batch of gaming data representing gaming activity and jackpot events occurring on the respective networked EGM installation during a period of operation preceding the initiation of the report, the EGM installation in each EGM venue maintaining a prize pool from which jackpot prizes are awarded, and the prize pool being periodically updated in response to pool information communicated from the master controller to the respective EGM installation as a batch data transfer in response to gaming activity reports received by the master controller from each of the EGM venues.

2. A jackpot system for providing jackpots on electronic gaming machines (EGMs) operating in an EGM venue, the system comprising a master controlled located remotely from the EGM venue and a networked EGM installation located at the EGM venue, the networked EGM installation comprising one or more EGMs connected via communications network to a network controller, wherein the master controller is not directly connected to the communications network, the networked EGM installation comprising jackpot awarding means arranged to award jackpot prizes to individual EGMs based on a predetermined trigger condition being established, and communications means arranged to periodically initiate a gaming activity report and communicate the gaming activity report to a master controller, the gaming activity report comprising a batch of gaming data representing gaming activity and jackpot events occurring on the respective networked

EGM installation during a period of operation preceding the initiation of the report, , the EGM installation maintaining a prize pool from which jackpot prizes are awarded, and the prize pool being periodically updated in response to pool information provided from the master controller to the EGM installation via the communications mean as a batch data transfer in response to gaming activity reports received by the master controller from each of the EGM venues.

3. The system of claim 1 or 2, wherein the EGM installation in each EGM venue includes a local jackpot controller and a front-end processor, such that the jackpot controller monitors EGM operation, determines the occurrence of jackpot trigger condition, maintains the prize pool information, and awards prizes from the prize pool when trigger condition occurs.

4. The system of claim 3, wherein the front-end processor monitors the operation of local jackpot controller, and the EGMs in the network and gathers statistics for forwarding to the master controller in the gaming activity report.

5. The system of claim 4, wherein the master controller includes communication means for receiving communications from the front-end processors at each EGM venue and returning prize pool information to each venue.

6. The system of claim 3, 4 or 5, wherein communication between the front-end processor and the master controller is encrypted.

7. The system of claim 3, 4, 5, or 6, wherein communication between the front-end processor and the master controller is via e-mail.

8. The system of claim 7, wherein communication between the front-end processor and the master controller is transmitted over the internet.

9. The system of claim 3, 4, 5, or 6, wherein communication between the front-end processor and the master controller is via reports printed on paper.

10. The system of claim 3, 4, 5, or 6, wherein communication between the front-end processor and the master controller is via data recorded on a recordable media.

11. The system of claim 10, wherein communication between the front-end processor and the master controller is via data recorded on a magnetic media.

12. The system of claim 11, wherein communication between the front-end processor and the master controller is via floppy disc.

13. The system of claim 11, wherein communication between the front-end processor and the master controller is via magnetic tape.

14. The system as claimed in any one of claims 3 to 13, wherein the front-end processor communicates with a security system, to indicate the identity of each EGM on which a jackpot has been won, the security system including a security video camera, and the security system being responsive to the indication of the identity of each winning EGM to direct the field of view of security video cameras to the area of the respective winning EGM.

15. The system as claimed in any one of claims 3 to 14, wherein the master controller includes an accounting system for gathering accounting information from each of the venues participating in the multiple venue jackpot system, and means for a calculating jackpot pool for each venue based on gaming machine activity at the respective venues.

16. The system as claimed in claim 15, wherein gaming machine activity at each venue is reported to the master controller by the respective front-end processor.

17. A master controller for a jackpot system for providing jackpots on electronic gaming machines (EGMs) operating in a plurality of EGM venues, each EGM venue having a networked EGM installation including one or more EGMs connected via communications network to a network controller, jackpot awarding means arranged to award jackpot prizes to individual EGMs based on a predetermined trigger condition being established, and reporting means arranged to periodically initiate a gaming activity report and communicate the gaming activity report to the master controller, the gaming activity report comprising a batch of gaming data representing gaming activity and jackpot events occurring on the respective networked EGM installation during a period of operation preceding the initiation of the report, the master controller being located remotely from at least one of the EGM venues, the EGM installation in each EGM venue maintaining a prize pool from which jackpot prizes are awarded, master controller collecting game statistics from the gaming activity report communicated from each venue and periodically communicating batch data information to each of the EGM venues in response to the gaming activity reports received by the master controller from each of the EGM venues to update the prize pool of each EGM installation.

18. The master controller of claim 17, wherein the EGM installation in each EGM venue includes a local jackpot controller and a front-end processor, such that the front-end processor monitors the operation of local jackpot controller, and the EGMs in the network and gathers statistics for forwarding to the master controller and the master controller includes communication means for receiving communications from the front-end processors at each EGM venue and returning prize pool information to each venue.

19. The master controller of claim 18, wherein communication between the front-end processor and the master controller is encrypted.

20. The master controller of claim 18 or 19, wherein communication between the front-end processor and the master controller is via e-mail.

21. The master controller of claim 20, wherein communication between the front-end processor and the master controller is transmitted over the internet.

22. The master controller of claim 18 or 19, wherein communication between the front-end processor and the master controller is via reports printed on paper.

23. The master controller of claim 18 or 19, wherein communication between the front-end processor and the master controller is via data recorded on a recordable media.

24. The master controller of claim 23, wherein communication between the front-end processor and the master controller is via data recorded on a magnetic media.

25. The system of claim 24 wherein, communication between the front-end processor and the master controller is via floppy disc.

26. The system of claim 24 wherein, communication between the front-end processor and the master controller is via magnetic tape.

27. The system as claimed in any one of claims 18 to 26 wherein, the master controller includes an accounting system for gathering accounting information from each of the venues participating in the multiple venue jackpot system, and means for a calculating jackpot pool for each venue based on gaming machine activity at the respective venues.

28. The system as claimed in claim 27 wherein, gaming machine activity at each venue is reported to the master controller by the respective front-end processor.

(End of text)

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau

(43) International Publication Date
5 April 2001 (05.04.2001)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 01/24097 A1

(51) International Patent Classification[7]: G06F 19/00, 161/00, A63F 13/12

(21) International Application Number: PCT/AU00/01165

(22) International Filing Date:
25 September 2000 (25.09.2000)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
PQ 3172 29 September 1999 (29.09.1999) AU

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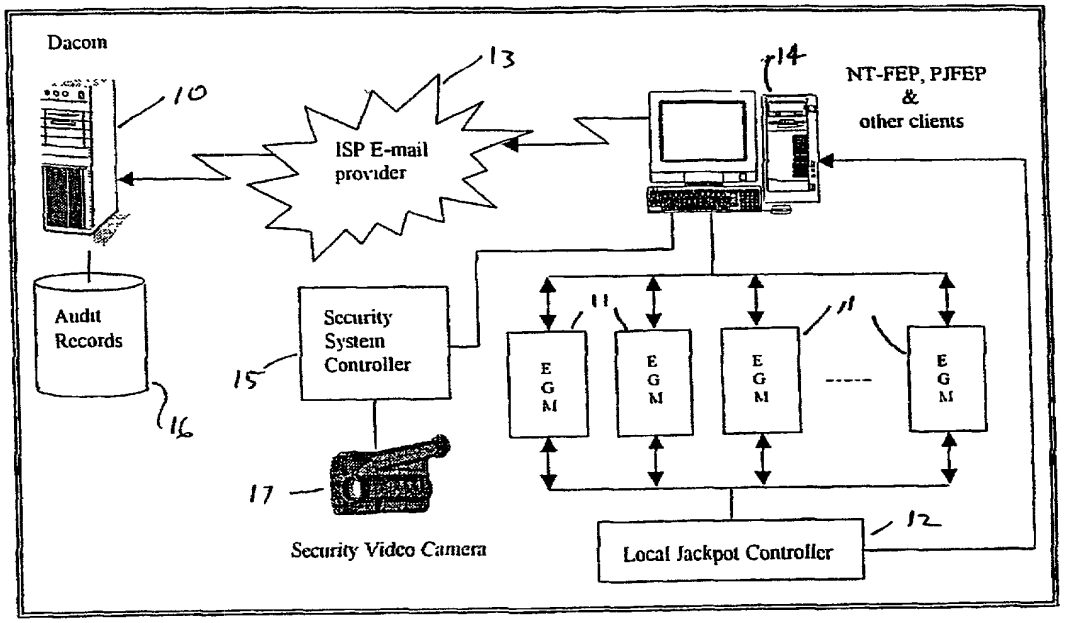
(81) Designated States *(national)*: AU, JP, NZ, US, ZA.

Published:
— *With international search report.*

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: MULTIPLE VENUE JACKPOT SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: The master controller is arranged to remotely collect and manage slot machine operations and management information for a complex multi venue network of casinos or other gaming venues. Day to day operating details are collected, recorded, updated and summarised automatically by the master controller. The multiple venues communicate with the master controller by indirect means such as email (via an ISP) or even by media transfer (CD rom, etc). The master controller also communicates pool information back to the multiple venues via the same communication method.

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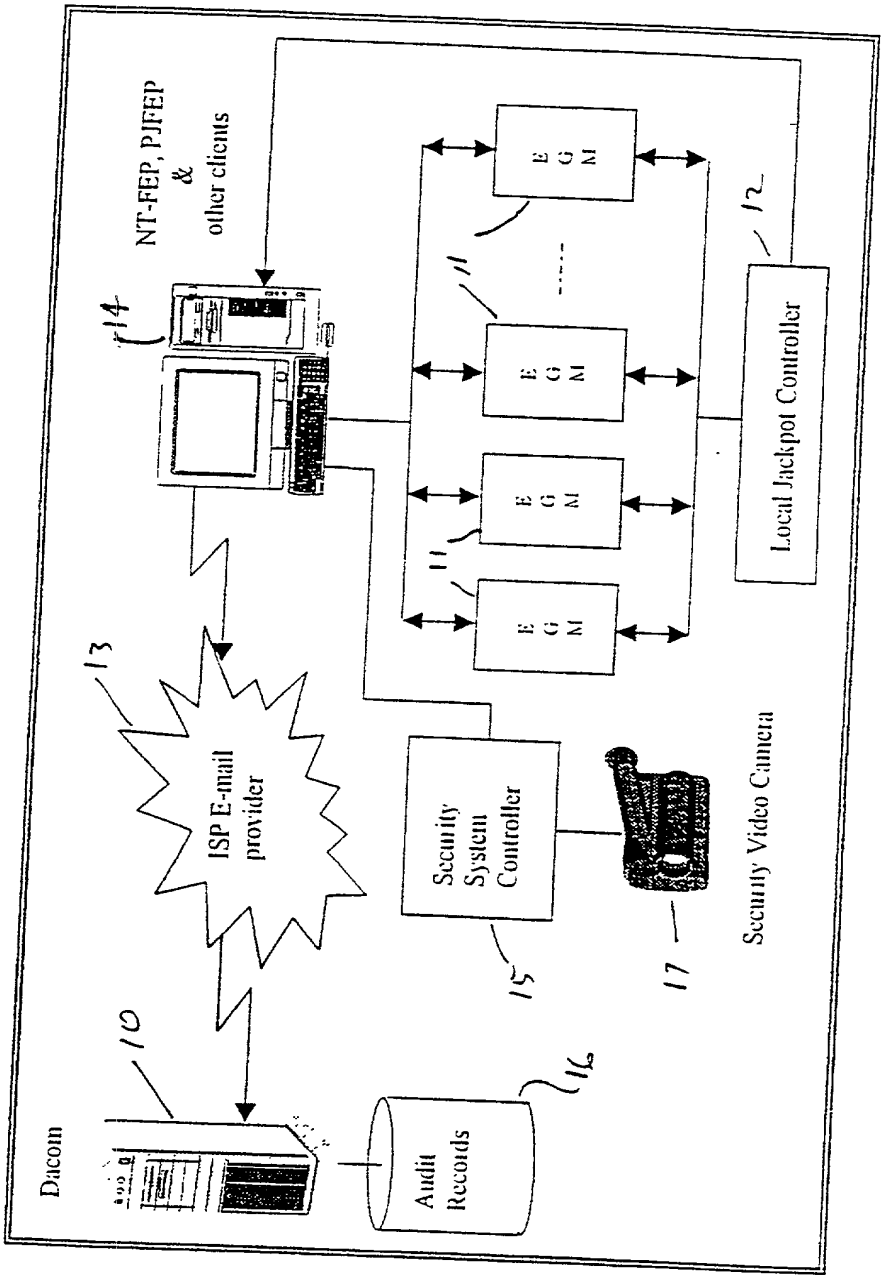
NT-FEP, PJFEP
&
other clients
14
E
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11
12
Local Jackpot Controller
13
ISP E-mail
provider
Security
System
Controller
15
17
Security Video Camera
Dacom
10
Audit
Records
16

Figure 1

DECLARATION FOR PATENT APPLICATION (Includes Reference to PCT International Applications)	ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 273402003400

As a below named inventor I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

MULTIPLE VENUE JACKPOT SYSTEM

the specification of which (check only one item below):

☐ is attached hereto.

☐ was filed as United States application

Serial No.
on ,
and was amended on (if applicable).

☒ was filed as PCT international application

Number PCT/AU00/01165
on September 25, 2000,
and was amended under PCT Article 19
on (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations § 1.56(a) and (b).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35 United States Code § 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or of any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America listed below and have also identified below any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America filed by me on the same subject matter having a filing date before that of the application(s) of which priority is claimed:

PRIOR FOREIGN/PCT APPLICATION(S) AND ANY PRIORITY CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 119:

COUNTRY (if PCT indicate "PCT")	APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	PRIORITY CLAIMED UNDER 35 U.S C. § 119
Australia	PQ3172	September 29, 1999	☒ YES ☐ NO
			☐ YES ☐ NO
			☐ YES ☐ NO
			☐ YES ☐ NO
			☐ YES ☐ NO

Declaration for Patent Application (Continued) (Includes Reference to PCT International Applications)	ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 273402003400

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 120 of any United States application(s) or PCT international application(s) designating the United States of America that is/are listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in that/those prior application(s) in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application(s) and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

PRIOR U.S. APPLICATIONS OR PCT INTERNATIONAL APPLICATIONS DESIGNATING THE U.S. FOR BENEFIT UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 120:

U.S. APPLICATIONS		STATUS *(Check one)*		
U S APPLICATION NUMBER	U S FILING DATE	PATENTED	PENDING	ABANDONED

PCT APPLICATIONS DESIGNATING THE U.S.			STATUS *(Check one)*		
PCT APPLICATION NUMBER	PCT FILING DATE	U S SERIAL NUMBERS ASSIGNED *(if any)*	PATENTED	PENDING	ABANDONED

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith. ***(List name and registration number)***

Send correspondence to:	**Direct telephone calls to:**
E. Thomas Wheelock Morrison & Foerster LLP 755 Page Mill Road Palo Alto, California 94304-1018	E. Thomas Wheelock at (650) 813-5739

201				
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POST OFFICE ADDRESS	POST OFFICE ADDRESS C/-71 Longueville Road	CITY Lane Cove	STATE & ZIP CODE/COUNTRY New South Wales, 2066 Australia	

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 201 x A. K. Turnbull		
DATE x 12 March 2002.		